



Home and School Meeting Minutes

March 15, 2022

ATTENDEES:

Officers: Kim Jaquez, Theresa Sebestyen, Kate McFarlane and Christine Taber
Staff: Jaime Veal, Ryan Samz
Parents: Elaine Gearheart, Jessica Cross, Molly Wehking, Debby Berenz, Mindy Landisch, Katie O'Donnell, Ashley McKanry, Danielle Sciano, Angie Golembiewski

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION/CONCLUSIONS
Call to order & Introductions	The meeting was called to order at 6:34 pm. Officers, staff and parents were introduced.
Principal/ Associate Principal's Update	<p>Jaime Veal and Ryan Samz gave an update on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jaime Veal shared a slideshow with photos highlighting recent happenings at Elmwood, including classroom spirit days and projects. • College and career readiness: 5th grade field trip to Biz Town, which supports financial literacy and entrepreneurship. Students submitted their job choices and interviewed with contacts from across the district. Biz Town is like little city with different businesses like Culvers, Police positions, etc. Students earn Biz Town Bucks for their work to cash in for prizes. • Reading Comes Alive Week - Spring Book Fair was scheduled in conjunction. Spirit day themes each day. Activities planned around literacy, such as 6th graders reading to Kindergarteners. • Ryan Samz shared about the Social Emotional Dispositions used in grading. He and Jamie are developing rubrics at each of the grade levels, starting with Citizenship. The goal is to better establish what behaviors can be expected of a 3rd grader, vs. a Kindergartener or 6th grader? This process involves a lot of research and discussion. The goal is to add meaning to the number grades (2 – Developing, 3 – Approaching, 4 – Meets). Elaine Gearhart inquired about change in the grading scale from 1 – 4 to 2-4, which eliminated an “Excels” category. Ryan noted this was a district decision and may change in the future. • Jaime shared photos from some of the Elmwood Student Raffle Winners: Lunch with the Principals and Slime Time and noted student’s excitement in participating in the raffle. • Updated timeline for Winter Fastbridge results; should be available in Infinite Campus soon. • Ryan Samz is collecting words of encouragement from parents by e-mail for upcoming 3rd – 6th grade Forward State testing. While Fastbridge informs teachers about individual students, Forward State Testing informs the School Report Card. Students are being tested in reading, math and writing. Ryan developed a 4-week preparation plan. The State provides testing questions and tools. Math app (Alex) competition was held with different goals each week. Jaime and Ryan want to include fun and supportive things to help students through what can be a challenging week. They are asking Home & School to fund gift bags with incentives for students, with treats, fidgets, etc. They proposed a budget of \$400. Ashley McKanry motioned to approve the funds, seconded by Angie Golembiewski and approved by all.

Review/Approve Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Danielle Sciano motioned to approve the Home and School Meeting Minutes with amendments, seconded by Ashley McKanry and approved by all.
Treasurer's Notes	<p>Checking account balance is at \$61,652.92 (\$10,639.42 belongs to the chess club). Available cash is \$57,240.39 Kate McFarlane presented current budget update.</p> <p>Programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Income Section: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Stonefire Pizza Eat & Earn brought in \$137.49; Portillos earned \$174.94. • Fundraising Section: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Kwik Trip card orders raised about \$3,200, our highest gross yet. ○ Raise Craze spending is in process (Robots and T-shirts purchases). Up to \$8,000 was approved at the H&S General Meeting on 1/20/22. • Expenses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Apawz event: Popcorn for a Movie Day incentive award. ○ Bus Driver Appreciation event – blankets were gifted to drivers. ○ Staff Appreciation expenses (supplemented by parent donations). ○ Artist in Residence funds have been building: \$1,000 rolls to next year's budget, as this is not held annually and was on hold longer for COVID. An Artist, Author, or Musician is brought into Elmwood to work with all students and grade levels in their craft. Artist in Residence is vacancy for committee chair if there are interested volunteers. ○ GaGa Pit mats are being purchased out of Line Item from 6th grade gift. • Net Zero Activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Book Fair: discrepancy from Fall was sorted out and will net zero. Spring Book Fair is still processing.
Past Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stonefire Pizza Eat & Earn on February 22nd went well, particularly considering inclement weather. Portillos Eat & Earn was held January 25th. • Kwik Trip Car Wash sale was very successful again this year. Offering online purchase options seems to support sales. • Elmwood Student Raffle was successfully held this year after 2 years off due to COVID. Theresa Sebestyen expressed appreciation for teachers and business who donated prizes and for volunteers to help students sign up for tickets. She acknowledged Katie O'Donnell who will be taking over next year. Thank you notes will be going out to donors. • Movie Night: Jessica Cross shared the event was well attended and seemed to be enjoyed by families. Our school filled 2 whole theaters to watch Sing 2. Tickets came with popcorn and drinks. Timing would be difficult to do another movie night this year, but aiming for 2 Movie Nights next year starting in Fall. • Pettit Family Skate – 95 skaters participated. A couple families shared their experiences, which were generally positive. Some families preferred the smaller venue of IncrediRoll. There may be smaller ice rinks available for future years. • Angie Golembiewski shared about Spring Book Fair. Each classroom received 60 Scholastic Dollars. Ms. Kubash's class celebrated winning the Coin War Challenge with animal crackers and juice prize. The challenge raised \$566 in total, allowing all 3rd grade classrooms to purchase additional books. Angie is seeking a Book Fair Co-Chair for next year. Mindy Landisch expressed interest in volunteering.
Upcoming Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seussical the Musical is coming up on March 17. Classrooms will be able to have school day performances, one for K – 2 and another for 3 – 6, in addition to the evening performance. Jamie Veal thanked Home & School for their support of the musical.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mindy Landisch shared about the upcoming Eat and Earn at Marcos Pizza March 29 - 31. They are also providing 15 pizzas for staff members on June 3rd, for High Interest Day. Discretionary spending can be used to cover the tip. Café Zupas Eat & Earn is scheduled for May 10th. • Danielle Sciano shared about Spring Dance Planning for April 8th. Second meeting attempt was well-attended. Sub-committees were developed to work on art projects, decorations, concessions. Molly Wehking was thanked for designing a flyer for the event. There will be concessions with pizza, nachos, and candy. There is a sign-up genius for volunteers that was put out in Paw Prints. • Staff Appreciation: Kim Jaquez shared about National Staff Appreciation Week that takes place the first week of May. Planning is underway. Keep an eye out in Paw Prints for donations, notes from students, etc.
Other Committee Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yearbook: Ashley McKanry shared that formatting is now underway. Photographs will be taken at the school musical this week to include. • Theresa shared that School Toolbox will be available for school supply ordering again next year. • 6th grade completion is set for Thursday 6/9/21. Home & School contributes \$2,000 and 6th grade parents donate to support the event and the class gift to the school. 5th grade parents are asked to volunteer that night to allow 6th grade parents to enjoy the ceremony. Event can be held back at Elmwood this year. • High Interest Day is on June 3rd. The day includes 35 workshops with a variety of activities, focused on different grade levels. The menu will go out to families to make their choices in April/May. The event requires a lot of volunteers, and so far the response has been great. Nicole Klaas and Debby Berenz have volunteered to take over as HID Co-Chairs next year and will be working with Theresa this year.
Open Floor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Last meeting of the school year is May 19th. Proposed budget for the following school year will be presented. Executive Board elections are also held. Vacancies available for both Secretary and Co-President(s). Committee Liaison could also be reinstated and would be appointed by the Exec Board.
Adjourned	Elaine Gearhart made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Ashley McKanry seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 7:42 pm